

The House Committee on Science and Technology offers the following substitute to SB 406:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for online voter registration; to provide for procedures; to amend Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to drivers' licenses, so as to provide for the use of certain information maintained by the Department of Driver Services to identify certain voter registration applicants; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and elections generally, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 21-2-219, relating to registration cards, as follows:

"(a) The registration cards for use by persons in making application to register to vote shall be in a form as specified by the Secretary of State, which shall include printed forms, forms made available through electronic means, or otherwise. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section and Code Section 21-2-221.2, only registration cards issued or authorized for use by the Secretary of State or the national voter registration card promulgated by the ~~Federal Election Commission~~ under the provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, 42 U.S.C. Section 1973gg-7, shall be accepted for purposes of voter registration."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 21-2-220, relating to application for registration, as follows:

"(a) Any person desiring to register as an elector shall apply to do so by making application to a registrar or deputy registrar of such person's county of residence in person, by submission of the federal post card application form as authorized under Code Section

21-2-219, by making application through the Department of Driver Services as provided in Code Section 21-2-221, by making application through the Department of Natural Resources as provided in Code Section 21-2-221.1, by making application online as provided in Code Section 21-2-221.2, by making application through designated offices as provided in Code Section 21-2-222, or by making application by mail as provided in Code Section 21-2-223."

SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"21-2-221.2.

(a) A person who is qualified to register to vote in this state and who has a valid Georgia driver's license or identification card may submit a voter registration application on the Internet website of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall, in conjunction with the Department of Driver Services, design and implement a system to allow for such online voter registration.

(b) An application submitted pursuant to this Code section shall contain:

(1) The applicant's name and residence address;

(2) The applicant's driver's license or identification card number;

(3) The applicant's date of birth;

(4) An affirmation by the applicant that the applicant is a citizen of the State of Georgia and of the United States;

(5) An affirmation by the applicant that the information provided is truthful and that the applicant is eligible to vote in the State of Georgia;

(6) An assent by the applicant to the use of his or her signature from his or her driver's license or identification card; and

(7) Such other information the Secretary of State deems necessary to establish the identity of the applicant.

(c) Upon the submission of an application through the website pursuant to this Code section, the software used by the Secretary of State for processing applications through the website shall provide for immediate verification of all of the following:

(1) That the applicant has a valid Georgia driver's license or identification card and that the number for that driver's license or identification card provided by the applicant matches the number for the applicant's driver's license or identification card that is on file with the Department of Driver Services;

(2) That the date of birth provided by the applicant matches the date of birth that is on file with the Department of Driver Services; and

(3) That the applicant is a citizen of the State of Georgia and of the United States and that the information provided by the applicant matches the information on file with the Department of Driver Services.

If any of these items does not match or if the application is incomplete, the application shall be void and shall be rejected and the applicant shall be notified of such rejection either electronically or by mail within five days after such application is rejected.

(d) If all of the items enumerated in subsection (c) of this Code section are verified, the Secretary of State shall obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's signature from the applicant's driver's license or identification card directly from the Department of Driver Services. The application shall then be processed in the same manner as applications under Code Section 21-2-221. Except as otherwise provided by this Code section, the application shall be deemed to have been made as of the date that the information was provided by the applicant through the Internet website.

(e) The matching of information pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section shall satisfy the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-220 and subsection (g) of Code Section 21-2-216.

(f) The Secretary of State shall employ security measures to ensure the accuracy and integrity of voter registration applications submitted electronically pursuant to this Code section."

SECTION 4.

Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to drivers' licenses, is amended by revising paragraph (6) of subsection (f) of Code Section 40-5-2, relating to driving records, as follows:

"(6)(A) The information required to be made available regarding voter registration pursuant to Code Section 21-2-221 and for the purposes set forth in such Code section; and

(B) Information sufficient for use in verifying a registered voter's identity or the identity of an applicant for voter registration by the Secretary of State, the county election superintendent, or the county registrar, including name, address, date of birth, gender, driver identification number, photograph, and signature; and"

SECTION 5.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.